



State of South Carolina
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

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**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR BAUER APPEARS BEFORE
US INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Andre Bauer today testified in front of the United States International Trade Commission concerning the steel industry in both South Carolina and the nation.

"South Carolina's manufacturing sector is a critical contributor to our state's economy," Bauer said to the commission. "Today, 15 percent of our workforce is in the manufacturing sector compared with just 10 percent for the United States as a whole. As such, our citizens are directly impacted by the shifts in global trade and international trade policy towards fair and open trade."

Mr. Bauer appeared before the group in support of several companies who do business in South Carolina, and was joined in testimony by Senator Lindsey Graham and Congressmen Joe Wilson, Jim Clyburn and Henry Brown.

"South Carolina cannot afford to experience any losses in the durable goods sector – including steel," Bauer added. "At the end of 2004 only two states – Michigan and Oregon – had higher unemployment rates. Fourteen of our 46 counties – almost one in three – struggled with unemployment rates above 10 percent. For our citizens, this is the bottom line. We cannot afford the any further losses of manufacturing jobs due to unfair trade practices. With greater urgency and greater need than at any time in our history, South Carolina's people look to their federal government to enforce every trade law fully and hold every trading partner accountable."

Almost 34,000 South Carolinians work in primary metal manufacturing and fabricated metals manufacturing. Industry leaders such as International Steel Group, SMI Steel and Nucor Corporation have invested billions in South Carolina, and the Lieutenant Governor feels it is essential to make certain the playing field remains level for many years to come. "Continued investment of resources is only viable if we support our industry through insistence of equal treatment under our international agreements," Bauer concluded.